

**From:** [Evan Dawson](#)

**Sent:** 23 October 2020 17:31

**Subject:** Snapshot - No.12

Dear RPS trustees, staff, volunteers and friends

I was away last Friday, so my Snapshot never came - I do hope it didn't prevent you reaching your weekends. I'll keep this email as succinct as possible, because there's LOADS to tell you - do scroll past my bits for the most interesting stuff...

**Last week's** highlights included some encouraging conversations with senior staff at the **arts councils** in England and Wales, sharing their views of the RPS, and its current and potential roles within the wider visual arts and participative arts sectors. I also met with **Gary Topp**, Director of the **Arnolfini** gallery here in Bristol, to talk about how we might work better together. I had a great conversation with **Helen Costello**, who runs the charity **Action for Children**, about an idea to create a new photography project for young carers; and I joined a meeting of the **Climate Change Working Group**, who have been doing so much to help the RPS address this most important of issues.

By the way, on **Friday** last week, I was filming for the BBC2 quiz "Only Connect" (for which I wrote the theme tune many years ago). It will be aired sometime after Christmas if you're curious to see me in a tux hitting lots of percussion instruments... !

**This week**, I had conversations with **Martin Baynes** (BIPP), **Caroline Kenyon** (Food Photographer of the Year) and **Robin Simpson** (Voluntary Arts). With great support from **Nikki, Michael, John** and the rest of the team, we concluded the budget for 2021, and I then sent out all my board papers (board meeting next Wednesday). I had a fascinating conversation with **Gary** this morning about the **Science Committee**; and with **Simon** we briefed an IT company about our **CRM** requirements. I've also been working with **Kate** to get an overview of the huge amount of activities taking place through our regions, groups and chapters. It's really incredible how much is going on, particularly as this activity is clearly providing photographic inspiration and support for large numbers of people who are isolated because of the pandemic. By the way, there are lots of really useful documents in our [volunteers area](#) (which Kate has been updating).

However, the **BIG** news this week (this year, even) was the launch of **The RPS Awards** on Wednesday. This is the culmination of a huge amount of creativity and hard work by many people, including the volunteers of the Awards Committee - and from the staff team: **Jo, Rebecca, Emily and Michael** in particular. You've all done such a wonderful job to assemble such a fantastic array of nominations and awards, across so many areas of photographic interest. They've already received a great reception, and we expect to see even more over the weeks ahead. You can read all about them [here](#) - and they will be featured in your forthcoming Journal also.

I would also like to highlight some great work by the **Distinctions Team** recently. The videos from the three "**roadshow**" events are online now, with applicants (including unsuccessful ones) talking about their portfolios. Hats off to **Peter** for your charismatic starring role in these!

LRPS Roadshow

<https://youtu.be/3tgmwenDLFI>

ARPS Roadshow

<https://youtu.be/wXcUZsMY68g>

FRPS roadshow

<https://youtu.be/32MY6SXyf90>

There is also a talk with **Sue Flood FRPS** online here, which had tremendously positive feedback on the facebook group:

<https://youtu.be/cjoLcAEP7os>

This week, the **Distinctions Team** also oversaw a **landscape assessment process**, with some great success stories, including our second ever drone distinction:

<https://rps.org/qualifications/arps/example-associate-submissions/sylvester-wong-hsiang-hui-arps/>

And our first ever Fellowship in Landscape:

<https://rps.org/qualifications/frps/example-fellowship-panels/adrian-gidney-frps/>

Finally, I'm delighted to report that the **RPS Journal** is up for 2 awards at the **Professional Publishers Association Independent Publisher Awards**:

1. Regular Journal feature writer Tom Seymour is shortlisted for 'Writer of the Year'; and
2. John Pender of Think for 'Designer of the Year' for the re-design

See the competition here: <https://ppaindpub.co.uk/2020/en/page/shortlist>. The winners will be announced online on 18 November 2020.

Many congratulations to **Simon Hill, Michael** and everyone else involved in this.

**Next week**, I'm having a few days off over half-term, but I'll be working on Wednesday for our next board meeting - so no *Snapshot* next week again, I'm afraid.

I hope you're enjoying my weekly *Snapshots*, and please do send me anything you'd like me to share. **I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.**

As always, please keep in touch, and do let me know if you'd like to discuss anything.

Happy weekend!

Evan

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